

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) Method for increasing plant yield relative to corresponding wild type plants, comprising modifying expression in a plant of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or modifying in a plant level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.
2. (original) Method for increasing leaf surface area relative to corresponding wild type plants, comprising modifying expression in a plant of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or modifying in a plant level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.
3. (original) Method for prolonging vegetative growth phase of a plant relative to corresponding wild type plants, comprising modifying expression in a plant of a nucleic acid sequence encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or modifying in a plant level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.
4. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, wherein said modifying expression, level and/or activity is effected by recombinant means and/or chemical means.

5. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a QALGGH motif.
6. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises a NNM(W)QMH motif.
7. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein comprises an EAR motif.
8. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein further comprises a B-box.
9. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein further comprises an L-box.
10. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, wherein said 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein is derived from a dicotyledonous plant, preferably from the family *Brassicaceae*, further preferably from *Arabidopsis thaliana*, more preferably the nucleic acid is as represented by SEQ ID NO 2 or a homologue, derivative or active fragment thereof and/or wherein said nucleic acid is as represented by SED ID NO 1 or a portion thereof or sequences capable of hybridising therewith .

11.(original) Method according to claim 10, wherein said homologue, derivative or active fragment has, in increasing order of preference, at least 30%, 31%, 32%, 33%, 34%, 35%, 36%, 37%, 38%, 39%, 40%, 41%, 42%, 43%, 44%, 45%, 46%, 47%, 48%, 49%, 50%, 52%, 54%, 56%, 58%, 60%, 62%, 64%, 66%, 68%, 70%, 72%, 74%, 76%, 78%, 80%, 82%, 84%, 86%, 88%, 90%, 92%, 94%, 96%, 98% sequence identity with the sequence of SEQ ID NO 2.

12.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 1, wherein said plant is a monocot.

13.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1, wherein said modifying expression is effected by introducing into a plant a nucleic acid capable of modifying expression of a gene encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or capable of modifying level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein.

14.(currently amended) Method according to claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid capable of modifying expression is a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, ~~such as a 2xC2H2 protein as defined in any of claims 5 to 11.~~

15.(currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 13 or 14~~ claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into a plant is an alternative splice variant of the ~~of a~~ nucleic acid ~~as defined in claim 14~~.

16.(currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 13 or 15~~ claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into a plant is an allelic variant of the ~~of a~~ nucleic acid ~~as defined in claim 14~~.

17.(currently amended) Method according to ~~claims 13 or 16~~ claim 13, wherein said nucleic acid introduced into a plant is comprised on at least part of a chromosome.

18.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1, wherein said modifying expression comprises increased expression.

19.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a plant promoter, preferably a constitutive promoter, such as a GOS2 promoter.

20.(currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 18~~ claim 1, wherein expression of said nucleic acid is driven by a plant promoter, preferably a tissue preferred promoter, such as seed-preferred promoter.

21. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 20~~ claim 1, wherein said increased yield comprises increased above ground biomass.

22. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claim 1 to 20~~, wherein said increased yield comprises increased seed yield.

23. (currently amended) Method according to ~~any of claim 1 to 20~~, wherein said increased yield comprises increased root yield.

24. (original) Construct comprising:

- (i) A nucleic acid capable of modifying expression of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or capable of modifying level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein;
- (ii) One or more plant control sequence capable of driving expression of the nucleic acid sequence of (i); and optionally
- (iii) A transcription termination sequence.

25. (currently amended) Construct according to claim 24, wherein said nucleic acid of

- (i) is a nucleic acid encoding 2xC2H2 proteins ~~as defined in any of claims 14 to 17.~~

26. (currently amended) Construct according to claim 24 ~~or 25~~, wherein said control sequences of (ii) is at least a constitutive promoter, such as a GOS2 promoter.

27. (currently amended) Construct according to claim ~~24 or 25~~, wherein said control sequences of (ii) is at least a tissue preferred promoter, such as seed-preferred promoter.

28. (currently amended) Host cell comprising a construct according to ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24.

29. (original) Method for the production of a transgenic plant having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth, which method comprises

- (i) introducing into a plant or plant cell a 2xC2H2 zinc finger nucleic acid;
- (ii) Cultivating the plant or plant cell under conditions promoting plant growth.

30. (currently amended) Plant obtainable by a method according to ~~any of claims 1 to 23 and 29~~ claim 1, which plant has increased yield, modified leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth, relative to corresponding wild type plants.

31. (original) Transgenic plant having increased yield, increased leaf surface area and/or prolonged vegetative growth, which transgenic plant has modified expression

of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or modified level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, relative to corresponding wild type plants.

32. (currently amended) Plant part, preferably a harvestable part, a propagule or progeny of a plant as defined in claim 30 ~~or 31~~, which progeny has modified expression of a nucleic acid encoding 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein and/or modified level and/or activity of a 2xC2H2 zinc finger protein, relative to corresponding wild type plants.

33. (currently amended) Plant or plant part according to ~~any of claims 30 to 32~~ claim 30, which plant is a monocotyledonous plant, preferably a cereal.

34. (currently amended) Plant or plant part according to ~~any of claims 30 to 33~~ claim 30 selected from rice, maize, wheat, barley, millet, oats, rye, sorghum, soybean, sunflower, canola, sugarcane, alfalfa, leguminosae (bean, pea), flax , lupinus, rapeseed, tobacco, tomato, potato, squash, papaya, poplar and cotton.

35. (currently amended) Use of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, of a 2xC2H2 protein and/or of a construct as defined in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 to increase plant yield.

36.(currently amended) A yield regulating composition comprising a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, and/ or comprising a 2xC2H2 protein, and/or comprising a construct as defined in ~~any one of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24.

37.(currently amended) Use of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, of a 2xC2H2 protein and/or of a construct as defined in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 to increase leaf surface area.

38.(currently amended) Use of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, of a 2xC2H2 protein and/or of a construct as defined in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 to prolong vegetative growth.

39.(currently amended) Use of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, of a 2xC2H2 protein and/or of a construct as defined in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 as target for an agrochemical.

40.(currently amended) Use of a nucleic acid encoding a 2xC2H2 protein, of a 2xC2H2 protein and/or of a construct as defined in ~~any of claims 24 to 27~~ claim 24 in a breeding program.

41.(currently amended) Use of a plant as defined in ~~any of claims 30 to 34~~ claim 20 to produce enzymes, pharmaceuticals or agrochemicals.

42. (currently amended) Use of a plant as defined in ~~any one of claims 30 to 34~~ claim
30 to produce food or feed products.